



News Release

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Contact: Media inquiries: [Kate Lynch](#), Communications Office
Public inquiries: Health Systems Customer Service

360-236-4072
360-236-4700

State revokes, suspends licenses, certifications, registrations of health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has revoked or suspended the licenses, certifications, or registrations of health care providers in our state. The department has also immediately suspended the credentials of people who have been prohibited from practicing in other states.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency's website. Click on "[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health home page](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Benton County

In September 2012 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the credential of licensed practical nurse **Sharon E. Hilker** (LP00013604). She diverted controlled substances and failed to comply with an order to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program.

Chelan County

In September 2012 the Secretary of Health revoked the credentials of certified and registered nursing assistant **Brittany Anne Smith** (NA60019038, NC60071383) for at least 10 years. She was fired from her job as a personal care attendant at Blossom Valley Senior Assisted Living in Wenatchee for misrepresented care for residents and falsified records. In June 2012 she pleaded guilty to second-degree theft for using a resident's credit card for her own use.

Cowlitz County

In September 2012 the Nursing Commission suspended the credential of registered nurse **Connie Jo Cothren** (RN00110516). Her credential expired but is eligible for renewal. She must meet the conditions in the order prior to seeking reinstatement. She failed to comply with terms of a stipulation that she participate in a substance abuse monitoring program for five years.

King County

In August 2012 the Secretary of Health revoked the credential of registered nursing assistant **Marie G. Johnson** (NA00168789) for 10 years. In July 2011 she was criminally convicted of second-degree identity theft, second-degree theft, and third-degree theft.

Mason County

In September 2012 the Secretary of Health suspended the credential of respiratory care practitioner **Sheila Jorgenson** (LR00001508) for at least two years. In July 2010 she tested positive for methadone, a controlled substance, and admitted to taking methadone and working while impaired.

Pierce County

In September 2012 the Secretary of Health suspended the credential of certified nursing assistant **Michelle A. Punches** (NC60015955) for at least five years. Her credential expired but is eligible for renewal. In January she was found guilty of third-degree assault and first-degree theft. In May 2011 when she was arrested for shoplifting, she admitted to Tacoma police that she used methamphetamine.

In September 2012 the Department of Health suspended the credential of physical therapist **Franklin R. Merritt** (PT00008051) for at least three years and was fined \$2,500. He engaged in sexual misconduct with patients.

In September 2012 the Department of Health suspended the credential of registered nursing assistant **Jennifer R. Gravely**, also known as **Jennifer R. Marshall** (NA60080283) for at least five years. While employed at Tahoma House, a boarding home for developmentally disabled adults, she abused at least two residents. She was fired for failing to report the incidents.

Spokane County

In August 2012 certified nursing assistant **Brandi L. Hicking** (NC10074015) voluntarily surrendered her credential to the Nursing Assistant Program. She cannot resume practice as a nursing assistant due to health problems.

Stevens County

In September 2012 the Secretary of Health suspended the credential of **Alana Jane Barry** (NA60120658) for at least two years. She failed to comply with probation terms requiring her to seek a chemical dependency evaluation.

Thurston County

In August 2012 the Veterinary Board suspended the credentials of **Elan L. Watson** (VM00001906, AT60014159), veterinary medical clerk and veterinary technician. Watson's credentials are expired and subject to a five-year probation. Before she can be reinstated, she must comply with terms and conditions of her probation which includes payment of a \$1,000 fine and participating in a substance abuse monitoring program.

Out of State

Arizona: In September 2012 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the credential of registered nurse **Margaret A. McGonagle** (RN60075520). Her Washington credential was immediately suspended in August after the Arizona Board of Nursing revoked her nursing credential for testing positive for fentanyl, a controlled substance.

Oregon: In September 2012 the Nursing Commission immediately suspended the credential of registered nurse **Suzanne G. Franklin** (RN00142851). She failed to comply with her probation agreement with the Oregon Board of Nursing and, in January 2012 she voluntarily surrendered her Oregon nursing license.

Texas: In September 2012 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the credential of registered nurse **Kathleen C. Bethards-Sanchez** (RN00164687). Her Washington credential was immediately suspended in July after the Texas Board of Nursing revoked her Texas credential and the Nevada Board of Nursing suspended her Nevada credential.

The [Department of Health website](http://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*.

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